

**LONGFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Minutes of Meeting of Longford Municipal District held via MS Teams**

**on Wednesday, 24th November 2021 at 3.30pm**

**CATHAOIRLEACH**: Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors – Seamus Butler, Martin Monaghan,

John Browne, Peggy Nolan, Gerry Warnock,

Gerry Hagan.

**IN ATTENDANCE**: Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services.

Mr. Eamonn Bennett, Senior Executive Engineer.

Ms. Lorraine Mc Kee, Administrative Officer.

Mr. Brian Faughnan, Executive Engineer.

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR:**  Ms. Ann Marie Mc Keon

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES – circulated.**

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Gerry Warnock, it was unanimously agreed to adopt Minutes of Committee Longford Municipal District Meeting held on the 12th October 2021.

On the proposal of Councillor John Browne, seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler, it was unanimously agreed to adopt Minutes of Longford Municipal District Committee Meeting held on the 27th October 2021.

On the proposal of Councillor Gerry Warnock seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan, it was unanimously agreed to adopt Minutes of Longford Municipal District Meeting held on the 27th October 2021.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.**

None.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS.**

None.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT INCORPORATING AREA ENGINEER’S PROGRESS REPORT – circulated.**

Eamonn Bennett, Senior Executive Engineer briefed the members on the Management Report and responded to the following:

* Memorial Bench’s in the mall
* Lisbrack Footpaths
* Heavy Goods Vehicle Route in Longford Town
* Date for contractor to commence works on footpaths in the town area

Councillor Seamus Butler asked that the Heavy Goods Vehicle Route be placed on the management report agenda under national routes.

The members acknowledge the works completed in the Longford Municipal District area.

**PROPOSED PROJECTS/EXPRESSION OF INTERESTS – AS CIRCULATED.**

Noted.

**ITEM REFERRED FROM STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIC**

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 21ST OCTOBER 2021 – PAID**

**PARKING POLICY FOR WAIVERS – AS CIRCULATED**.

On the proposal of Councillor Gerry Warnock seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan the members unanimously agreed to adopt the Paid Parking Policy for Waivers.

**TAKING IN CHARGE “BRICKFIELDS, ABBEYCARTRON, LONGFORD” –AS CIRCULATED.**

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan the members unanimously agreed to Take in charge Brickfields, Abbeycarton, Longford.

The members sought information on when the sewage element of this estate would be taken in charge by Irish Water. John Brannigan explained that there was a process in place for transferring assets to Irish Water.

Boil Water Notice

The members voiced their frustrations at the on-going boil water notice in Longford Central and the lack of information from Irish Water and they highlighted the fact that all the blame is with Irish Water and not Longford County Council. They requested the following information from Irish Water:

* Tests completed on water since notice issued
* Timeframe involved
* Works carried out since boil water notice issued
* Daily updates

**NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

**Irish Water**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi and seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler-

“I call on Irish Water to provide drinking water for residents and businesses affected by the Boil Water Notice in the Longford MD Area”.

Response

I have received a response form the relevant department advising that Irish Water recommends that customers on the Longford Central PWSS continue to boil water before consumption in order to protect public health. Irish Water continues to work with its partner Longford County Council to lift this boil water notice as quickly as possible. Irish Water does recognise that the boil water notices causes considerable inconvenience to all customers and wishes to apologise for this inconvenience. Where Irish Water supplies water to customers by tankers or other means which require customers to collect water it advises customers to boil the water before consumption. This is because the containers used by the customers to carry the water to their homes or businesses may not have been thoroughly sterilised before use.

The provision of tankers as an alternative water supply was considered by Irish Water but it felt it was not appropriate as the water would have to be boiled before consumption. This activity would have no benefit to customers. Irish Water will inform its customers when the boil water notice through its website [www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie) and will alert the local media and public representatives.

**Barrier along the Camlin**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi and seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler-

“I call on Longford County Council to erect a barrier rail along the Camlin from under the bridge, past the Council Office on Great Water Street, until the Mall”.

Response

The members unanimously agreed that this motion would be forwarded to the Regeneration section and that additional signage would be erected along the open areas e.g. danger deep water and keep away from edge.

**RAS Properties**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi and seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler -

“I call on Longford County Council to reach out to landlords of RAS properties, and landlords in general, if they wish to sell their properties to Longford County Council”.

Response

The Housing Department is in regular and direct contact with the landlords of the RAS properties in the county. As landlords are obliged to serve notice on their tenants if they wish to regain vacant possession of their residential properties the Housing Department is normally made aware at an early stage regarding any proposal to sell a RAS property. This is because the Council is obliged to provide or source alternative accommodation for RAS tenants who are required to vacate properties and because the landlords are obliged to notify the Council so that the processing of RAS Payments can be terminated in a timely manner.

The acquisition by the Council of second-hand or previously occupied properties does not result in any increase in the overall stock of houses in the county. Where a RAS property is purchased it is normal for the tenants to be either accommodated in the RAS property or in a property that is already in the Council’s ownership. The Council’s ability to buy second-hand or previously occupied properties is restricted by the fact that the Department sets quotas in respect of such acquisitions and it also controls the provision of the finance for such purposes. The Council has been instructed by the Department to not compete with first-time buyers who may be interested in buying second-hand or previously occupied properties. This is because it is believed that if it did so it could distort the property market and contribute to property price inflation.

The Council will monitor the property market. Where it is considered that the acquisition of any individual property would be advantageous, justifiable and in line with the instruction that the Department has issued, it will seek to purchase the property.

Councillor Seamus Butler proposed, and Councillor Gerry Warnock seconded that this motion would be referred to the full council for consideration.

Councillor Seamus Butler reminded all present of the following:

* Off street free parking would commence from next Friday 26th November 2021
* Christmas Lights Saturday 27th November 2021
* Shop local campaign this Christmas
* Shop Front campaign in conjunction with Tidy Towns

The members thanked the executive for their support during the year and wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Ann Marie Mc Keon**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Ann Marie Mc Keon**

**Meetings Administrator.**

**Confirmed and adopted at Longford Municipal District Meeting held on the 26th January 2022.**

**Uruemu Adejinmi**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Cathaoirleach.**